

JS came to our pediatric dentistry center at Yale-New Haven Hospital today. He will be 4 next week. He was referred by United Community Services in Norwich CT. That is about 60 miles away. They tried to clean his teeth but they couldn't accomplish anything at the visit and the referral read, "acute situational anxiety--needs full mouth rehabilitation under general anesthesia". That was written by a general dentist. One of our pediatric dental residents performed a *comprehensive care visit including a complete medical and social history, dental prophylaxis, fluoride treatment, exam, homecare instruction, diet analysis, fluoride intake evaluation and show, tell and do technique with all treatment and also attempted radiographs without success.* He was a busy boy but we accomplished what we set out to do. His exam revealed multiple dental caries involving at least 8 teeth that will need nerve treatments and stainless steel crowns that we can see and who know what else when we obtain radiographs. He has a seizure disorder and is on medications which we will discuss with his physician. At this time we have a 6 month wait time to go to the operating room and a 2 month wait time for the next available restorative visit at Yale-New Haven Hospital. We will attempt the medical management of his dental caries with diet, home fluoride brushing, cariology visit in 6 weeks to review and reinforce the importance of good diet and home care with caretakers at home until such time we can restore his teeth to optimum health.

He was one of about 50 patients we saw today along with 2 in the operating room, 95% of whom are on Medicaid. We gave up on having a "wait list" when it became 30 pages long. This includes sick kids and special needs kids. The community in New Haven no longer needs to go the the emergency department at Yale-New haven Hospital during regular hours. They just "walk in" to the pediatric dentistry center. They know that we will see all our emergencies. They know how to get into the system. They know it is not the kids fault.

We know that we will see all our emergencies. We know that they know how to get into the system. We know it is not the kids fault. And we know they have no place else to go!

We are in year three of the pediatric dental residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital. We have had over 14,000 visits since August 2004. and in December, the government cut three-fifths of our HRSA grant for starting this pediatric dental residency program to help the kids in Connecticut. We cannot continue doing this alone. We need dollars for kids, teens and special needs patients. We need periodontal, interceptive orthodontic , oral surgery and endodontic coverage also along with practitioners to treat these children. We have been doing our part. Now it is time for Connecticut to do theirs!

Respectfully submitted by:

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